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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 14 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 11 September 2009 at 3:55 p.m., the Israeli army showered the outskirts of the town of Klaele in South Lebanon with around twelve 155-mm shells. Israel proclaimed that its shelling of the outskirts of Klaele came in response to the launching of two Grad missiles, calibre 122-mm, from the same area and on the same day.

Later in the evening, Israel directly interfered with the telephone network in South Lebanon. This Israeli action jammed the telephone signal in South Lebanon and disrupted the telecommunications in the concerned areas.

Immediately after the missile launch, the Lebanese Armed Forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) jointly started to investigate the incident to determine its perpetrators.

While the Lebanese Government condemned the missile launch and undertook to investigate the incident and to hold its perpetrators accountable, the violent and disproportionate Israeli action is a blatant and premeditated violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and constitutes a flagrant breach of a previously set practice that any incident across the Blue Line should be dealt with through UNIFIL and without resorting to unilateral measures. Clearly, such an action cannot meet any of the requirements of self-defence as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations and must therefore be strongly condemned.

I wish to draw your kind attention to this irresponsible and reprehensible Israeli behaviour, which adds to other continuous Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), including daily overflights and incursions into Lebanese territory, in addition to the ongoing occupation of the northern part of al-Ghajar and of the Sheba'a farms and Kfar Shouba Hills, while reiterating Lebanon's firm commitment to said resolution 1701 (2006) and to the ongoing cooperation between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL.

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I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative